

Message

From: Keigwin, Richard [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=151BAABB6A2246A3A312F12A706C0A05-RICHARD P KEIGWIN JR]
Sent: 1/3/2021 3:27:32 PM
To: Layne, Arnold [Layne.Arnold@epa.gov]
CC: Gray, Shawna [Gray.Shawna@epa.gov]; Carter, Pamela [Carter.Pamela@epa.gov]; Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]; Carlisle, Sharon [Carlisle.Sharon@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: article on contact tracing at EPA

Let me see if I can get some additional context from OMS. I read the cited Federal Register Notice and it doesn't say much that could help us in answering any questions we might receive.

Rick Keigwin
Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: 202-564-2910
Sent from my iPhone (Please excuse typos!)

On Dec 31, 2020, at 3:49 PM, Layne, Arnold <Layne.Arnold@epa.gov> wrote:

Rick and Shawna,

It may be prudent for one of you to notify all OCSPP managers regarding this ICR request. Be happy to talk about other options, etc. All my best, Arnold

Yesterday is the Past.
Tomorrow is the Future.
Today is a gift....that's why it's
called the Present!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Spatz, Dana" <Spatz.Dana@epa.gov>
Date: December 31, 2020 at 8:51:51 AM EST
To: "Layne, Arnold" <Layne.Arnold@epa.gov>, "Sherman, Kelly" <Sherman.Kelly@epa.gov>, "Gorres, Dennis L." <Gorres.Dennis@epa.gov>, "Overstreet, Anne" <overstreet.anne@epa.gov>, "Hebert, John" <Hebert.John@epa.gov>, "Carlisle, Sharon" <Carlisle.Sharon@epa.gov>, "Aubee, Catherine" <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>, "Dixon, Diane" <Dixon.Diane@epa.gov>, "Housenger, Justin" <Housenger.Justin@epa.gov>, "Laws, Meredith" <Laws.Meredith@epa.gov>, "Schroeder, Carolyn" <Schroeder.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Hollis, Linda" <Hollis.Linda@epa.gov>, "Arrington, Linda" <Arrington.Linda@epa.gov>, "Olinger, Christine" <Olinger.Christine@epa.gov>, "Holloman, Rachel" <Holloman.Rachel@epa.gov>, "VanAlstine, Julie" <VanAlstine.Julie@epa.gov>, "Reaves, Elissa" <Reaves.Elissa@epa.gov>, "Willis, Kristen" <Willis.Kristen@epa.gov>
Subject: article on contact tracing at EPA

Article on contact tracing at EPA in today's Inside EPA:

EPA is asking the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for swift emergency processing of an information collection request (ICR) that the agency will use for COVID-19 contact tracing of its employees, saying the data is vital to identify which staffers have the virus and trace people who were in close contact with them.

The ICR notice, slated for publication in the Dec. 31 *Federal Register*, seeks certain information from federal employees, staff detailed to the agency, interns, volunteers, grantee recipients and contractors that perform work in EPA facilities so that it can “implement an effective COVID-19 Contact Tracing program.”

Data that the agency will collect through the ICR includes a person’s name, work location, contact information, supervisor’s name, health status, “close contacts” as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the building and floors visited during periods of possible transmission, also as defined by the CDC. The CDC says close contacts include any “individual within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more,” while a person is considered infectious two days before symptoms appear.

OMB approval of the new ICR, which includes assigning it an “OMB control number,” is necessary before EPA can require its employees and other people to respond to the data collection request.

“Each item of information requested is based on CDC and industry best practice for Contact Tracing. This information is necessary to identify individuals in the workforce who are COVID- 19 positive and to notify and trace persons in the workforce who were in close contact with the COVID-19 positive employee,” the agency says.

EPA officials estimate that there will be zero costs associated with the data collection effort including operation and maintenance costs, that employees and other people will only have to respond once, that responses are voluntary, that it expects approximately 250 respondents, and that the total estimated burden is 63 hours per year.

EPA’s effort to develop a contact tracing program comes as the agency is grappling with its strategy for reopening its Washington,

D.C., headquarters and regional offices that were shuttered due to the pandemic.

Unions representing EPA employees have repeatedly criticized the Trump administration's reopening strategy, warning that some offices are reopening too quickly amid persistently high infection levels across the United States, putting staff at unnecessary risk of exposure to the virus. -- *Anthony Lacey* (alacey@iwpnews.com)

Happy New Year!

Dana